



OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
Virtual Meeting – [Join Teams Meeting](#)

10/25/2021 4:00 p.m.



**Draft Minutes**

**Members Present**

☒ Commissioner William Wilson (Chair)  
☒ Commissioner Andy Bessler (Vice-chair)  
☒ Commissioner Jim Burton  
☒ Commissioner Mark Loeth

☐ Commissioner Eric Nolan  
☐ Commissioner Joseph Thomas  
☐ Commissioner Jack Welch

**Councilmember / Liaison to the City Council**

☒ Vice Mayor Becky Daggett

**Staff and Others Present**

Martin Ince – Multimodal Transportation Planner  
Rebecca Sayers – Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces and Events Director  
Sylvia Struss – Open Space VISTA  
Robert Wallace – Open Space Specialist

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Bessler, Burton, Loeth, and Wilson were present for roll call. Commissioners Nolan, Thomas, and Welch were absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bessler to approve the September 27, 2021 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loeth. Motion passed unanimously with four (4) yeas votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public comments.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Active Transportation Master Plan**

Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner, gave a presentation on the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) stating that it is a guide to enhance walking and biking in Flagstaff. The plan is to emphasize on pedestrians and bikes and not to overbuild for cars, taking a well-rounded approach to transportation. The plan also includes a prioritized list of projects such as sidewalks, bikeways, FUTS, crossings, bridges, and tunnels.

The bikeways plan will consist of a low-stress network of bikeways that will have signage, branding, and wayfinding to make the system cohesive. It is intended to appeal to the interested but concerned segment of population.

Currently there are 58 existing FUTS miles and in the FUTS plan there are an additional 76 future miles planned which will give forest access, trailheads, and access to outlying communities. An interactive map can be found at [www.flagstaff.az.gov/atmp](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/atmp).

**B. Greater Observatory Mesa Trail Planning**

Robert Wallace, Open Space Specialist, reported that staff has been working on a trail plan for the Observatory Mesa natural area along with the local land managers and American Conservation Experience to put together the plan. Staff has also drafted a presentation plan to present to different Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Loseth reviewed the presentation with the Commissioners and how best to implement the plan. In the plan, Staff would like to keep current access points that the public already use and restore areas as they build. He expressed that the plan should not be considered final until they have stake holder and community input to find out what is valuable to them. After finalization of the plan, it could take 2-3 years to complete, but will be dependent on weather and funding.

Mr. Wallace stated that staff would like to have a draft to the Commissioners for review and their input, then start an outreach to the stakeholders and partners. Mr. Wallace reviewed the draft with the Commissioners and welcomed them to make suggestions/comments regarding it or they can email him their comments.

Commissioner Bessler commented that Section 17 should be addressed more specifically in the draft.

**C. Elden Substation/McMillan Mesa Project Update**

Mr. Wallace reminded the Commissioners that the topic was reviewed at a previous meeting to improve access to the APS Elden substation on the McMillan Mesa. It was brought to City Council for ordinance approval for the completion of work for access. Per the agreement with APS, they are to restore and reseed the easement by the access road and is still a work in progress.

Commissioner Wilson expressed his concern with the curb cut for APS equipment that it could be inviting to the public to use. Mr. Wallace reported that APS agreed to put up a barrier at the access to the substation.

**D. Open Spaces Commission Term of Office and Position Review**

Mr. Wallace indicated the term for the Commissioners are set by each Commission. There was no further discussion due to lack of quorum. This item will be put back on a future agenda.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

Next meeting: November/December meeting: December 6, 2021, 4-6 PM

- Regional Plan Updates
- Open Space Integrated System and Community Development Considerations
- Open Space Easements – Bryce Doty
- FY22 Commission Priorities
  - McMillan Mesa Rezone Application Update
  - City Code Update Planning
  - Greater Observatory Mesa Trail Planning
- Open Spaces Commission Term of Office and Position Review

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. due to no quorum. There was no further discussion after item 5D.